

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the official action dated April 28, 2005, and the references it cites. In the official action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite; claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Murata; claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of general knowledge in the art; and claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of Debany. Additionally, the drawings were objected to because of handwriting and poor consistency in Figure 4. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding objections and rejections and respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the applicants respectfully submit that corrected drawings, including a revised Figure 4, were filed in this application on February 6, 2002. As a courtesy, the applicants submit herewith a copy of corrected drawings for figures 1-4 and transmittal previously submitted to the Patent Office. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

By way of this response, claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to clarify the scope of protection sought. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Turning to the art rejections, the applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Independent claim 1 is directed to a system including a multi-source agreement compliant electrical connector that directly couples to a multi-source agreement compliant device. The examiner contends that Murata teaches a multi-source

agreement compliant electrical connector, namely sending and receiving circuits (1) and (2).

However, the applicants respectfully submit that Murata does not teach a multi-source agreement compliant electrical connector, as recited in claim 1, or any type of connector whatsoever. On the contrary, Murata teaches sending and receiving circuits (1) and (2), neither of which can be fairly construed to be connectors.

Further, although Murata teaches that the sending circuit (1) is connected to T-lines (21) and that the receiving circuit (2) is connected to R-lines (22), Murata fails to teach any type of connector that is used to make the connections, much less a multi-source agreement compliant electrical connector as recited in claim 1. Moreover, the T-lines (21) and the R-lines (22) are not a multi-source agreement compliant device, but are instead cables or transmission lines.

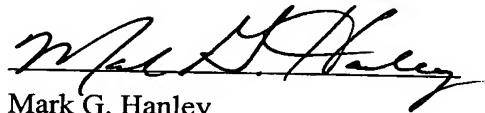
As the applicants describe at page 3, lines 24-28 of the originally filed specification, the multi-source agreement compliant device directly couples to the multi-source agreement compliant connection without requiring a plurality of cables, wires, etc. In contrast to the system recited in claim 1, Murata teaches a system that requires transmission and receiving lines, which are an essential portion of the frame system to be tested. Fig. 8 and col. 1, ll. 26 and 27. Specifically, Murata teaches testing race conditions associated with transmissions via the T-lines (21) and the R-lines (22) between terminals (11), (12), and (13) and a digital service unit ("DSU") (24) by connecting the sending and receiving circuits (1) and (2) to the T-lines (21) and R-lines (22). col. 1, ll. 36-42; col. 2, ll. 38 and 39; and Fig. 6. The applicants respectfully submit that Murata fails to teach a multi-source agreement compliant electrical connector that directly couples to a multi-source agreement compliant device.

Thus, because Murata fails to teach each and every element recited in claim 1, claim 1 cannot be anticipated thereby.

Nor would one of ordinary skill in the art be motivated to modify the teachings of Murata to remove the T-lines (21) and the R-lines (22) because such a modification would change the principle of operation of the Murata system and render the Murata system unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. MPEP § 2143.01. Specifically, removing the lines (21) and (22) would not enable an accurate observation of the race conditions taught by Murata. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and claims 2-4 dependent thereon are in new condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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